Start of Dan Porat Collection

AR 11532

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LEO BAECK INSTITUTE
Center for Jewish History
15 West 16th Street
New York, NY 10011

Phone: (212) 744-6400
Fax: (212) 988-1305
Email: lbaeck@lbi.cjh.org
URL: http://www.lbi.org

AR 11532 1/1 Dan Porat Collection 1994-2003 Archives

THE AUSTRIAN HERITAGE COLLECTION AT THE LEO BAECK INSTITUTE
AUSTRIAN-JEWISH IMMIGRANTS IN THE USA

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE: 15 W 16TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10011, TEL (212) 744 6400

8/7/2003

Contents of the Dan Israel Porat - Collection

1) AHC quests I and II (copies);
2) "The Chajes Realgymnasium; Vienna, Austria; MCMXVIII - MCMXXXVIII; A Half Century Later - A Survey of the Past Students / Tishrei 5755 - September 1994", prepared by Dan Porat, Ph.D.; [English, copy, 23 pages];

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THE AUSTRIAN HERITAGE COLLECTION AT THE LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

AUSTRIAN-JEWISH IMMIGRANTS IN THE USA

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE: 15 WEST 16TH STREET, 4TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10011, TEL (212) 744 - 6400

Name: DAN (First Name) ISRAEL (Middle Name) PORAT (Last Name)

Occupation in US: PHYSICIST/ENGINEER (Ret

Date of Birth: ___ (Month) ___ (Day) 1922 (Year) **Place of Birth:** STANISLAWOW (City) POLAND (Country)

Prewar Address: GROSSE MOHRENGASSE 32 (Street) WIEN II (District, if in Vienna) (City) AUSTRIA (Country)

Prewar Name: PFEFFERBAUM **Maiden Name:** ___

1. Education/Occupation(s) *(please if possible, indicate institutions and year when entered/left)*

1955 - 1958 MANCHESTER UNIV. ENGLAND, M.S. PHYSICS
1958 - 1959 " " " , 1-Year Ph.D. candidate PHYSICS
1965 - 1967 MANCHESTER U. INST. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
1959 - 1962 HARVARD UNIVERSITY, RESEARCH FELLOW, Physics Ph.D. E.E.
1962 - 1988 STANFORD UNIVERSITY, STAFF MEMBER

2. Were you affiliated with any kind of organization (Youth, Zionist, Political, etc.)? If so, did you have any specific function?
ZIONIST

3. Were you arrested and/or interned? *(please indicate where and when)*
NO

4. What was your route of emigration? *(please indicate places and dates of stay)*
WITH "YOUTH ALIYAH" FROM VIENNA TO PALESTINE ARRIVING JANUARY 9, 1939 AT KIBBUTZ NA'AN

5. May we contact you again with a more detailed follow-up questionnaire? *(please circle)* (Yes) / No

6. Do you have any documents, such as photographs, letters, diaries, all kinds of manuscripts, etc., that would be appropriate for the archives of the LBI? Yes / (No)

If necessary please use additional sheets. Thank you!

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THE AUSTRIAN HERITAGE COLLECTION AT THE LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

AUSTRIAN-JEWISH IMMIGRANTS IN THE USA

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE: 15 WEST 16TH STREET, 4TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10011, TEL (212) 744 - 6400

We kindly ask you to answer the following questions in as much detail as possible, either in English or in German. If you need more space, please feel free to use additional sheets. If you don't know the answer to certain questions or don't want to answer for any reason, just go on to the next question.

NAME: DAN ISRAEL PORAT **DATE:** 2 August 200

1. BEFORE MARCH 1938

1.1 Please describe your parental home.
(Did you live in an apartment or in a house? How many people lived there with you? Did you have servants? What language(s) were spoken in the household?)

Lived in a modest apartment: 2 rooms + kitchen; 5 members of family.
Spoke German and occasionally Yiddish, especially parents. No servants.

1.2 Please tell us about your neighborhood (District in Vienna or area).
(What ethnic groups lived there? Religious life? Relationships between Jews and non-Jews? Relationships with neighbors?)

Grosse Mohrengasse in WIEN II
Mixed neighborhood, high percentage of Jews. Very little contact with non-Jews. Religious observance in my family was sporadic. Father came from a Hasidic family; mother was an agnostic. House-hold was not strictly Kosher.

1.3 What religious tradition existed in your family?
(Did you keep kosher, go to synagogue, observe holidays, etc.?)

We did not keep kosher. Went to synagogue sporadically. My father prayed at a Hasidic "Stiebl" -- a most informal setting for prayers. I went occasionally to the Jewish Temple (Leopolds?) for Friday eve services. I was attracted by the choir under Cantor Fränkel

1.4 Please, tell us about your friends and acquaintances ?
(Were they mostly Jewish or non-Jewish? Did you have any close non-Jewish friends?)

My friends were exclusively Jewish. I attended the Jewish Chajes Realgymnasium. I was also member of a Zionist Youth Movement: Blau-Weiss.
I never had a non-Jewish friend

1.5 Were you affiliated with any political, social or religious organization?
(Youth Organizations, Zionist Organizations, Political Parties, other organizations)
If so, did you have any specific function?

Youth Zionist Organization : Blau-Weiss

1.6 Did you or your family encounter any anti-Semitism in Austria before March 1938?
(If so, please give details.)

Not much. Derisive remarks from neighbor's children. Two occasions of fist-fights.
On one occasion, in Kärnten, a farmer did not believe that we were a hiking Jewish group. Truly, he expected us to "have horns" -- his own words.
We were amused rather than shocked.
Our ages were around 14 years.

1.7 What was your/ your family's reaction to Hitler's rise to power in Germany in 1933 and to Nazi activity in Austria in the early thirties? Did you/ they feel threatened by these events?

There was complete denial of a danger. At the same time an identification with the suffering of Jews in Germany.
It was believed that "the world will not let the Nazis take over Austria".
The putsch, in which Chancellor Dollfuß was let bleed to death, was a shock. But everybody I knew was relieved when the Austrian government quickly took charge. I was not 12 years yet, but I remember the worry.

2. FROM MARCH 1938 TO EMIGRATION - FROM EUROPE TO AMERICA

2.1 How was your time spent during and after the "Anschluss"? What was the impact of the "Anschluss" on you personally?
(Were you expelled from school/university? Did you or somebody in your family lose your/ their jobs? Were your apartments/houses looted? Were you (or members of your family) persecuted? Were you/ they forced to scrub the streets?)

Before the Anschluss I participated in street demonstrations against the Nazis, mostly in the 1st Bezirk where the action was. My father who represented a Czech firm, lost his customers and the financial situation became desperate. After the Anschluss there were many beatings. Being blond and blue-eyed I wandered through the streets to see the humiliation of sidewalk scrubbing, the beatings that were often spontaneous and in which youths as well as grown-ups participated. Ugliness had a free reign.

2.2 How did non-Jewish friends, colleagues, schoolmates, neighbors, etc. behave toward you and your family?

Threatening, pushing, beating, ridiculing. The gemütliche Austrians seem to enjoy themselves. I guess that decent Christian Austrians were intimidated. On on occasion I saw German soldiers intervene to stop mass beatings. On another occasion I saw a young Jewish boy stomped on by 2 Nazis in uniform. He was motionless, could have been dead.

2.3 Could you please decribe your recollections of November 9th, 1938, the so-called „Reichs-Kristallnacht" (in case you still were in Austria at that time)

My father was arrested that afternoon.

See ADDENDUM TO QUESTION 2.3, enclosed

2.4 Were you or any members of your family arrested? Sent to a camp?
(If so, please give details.)

My father was arrested on November 9th, 1938
After weeks we found out that he was being kept in a camp ZBASZYN on the Polish Border. Father & Mother were sent to Ghetto Tarnow. From there either to Auschwitz, Belzac or Plaszow.
Same one of my sisters. She was in Labor Camp Opole before being sent to the Ghetto.
Elder sister was sent with Transport of 3000 Jews from Vienna to Maly Trostinec. All were machine-gunned on arrival. She was a physician

2.5 Can you recall the process of obtaining papers necessary for emigration?
(Did you try to obtain visas for other countries as well? Were you supported by any relief organization, by relatives or friends?)

I was stateless and obtained a passport good for one-way trip out of Austria. I was greatly helped by the Youth Zionist organization to which I belonged and got a visa to Palestine, joining a Kibbutz.
My aunt donated a suitcase and a pair of boots for the journey. Otherwise I was on my own to make arrangements.

2.6 What happened to your (or your family's) apartments, houses, businesses and other property?

The little property we had, furniture & other house-hold articles, were abandoned.

2.7 When did you leave Austria? (Please indicate exact date, if possible)

2 January 1939

2.8 If you did not emigrate directly to the U.S, where did you go first?
(How long did you stay there? Can you give a brief description of your experiences? Was there an immedate reason - apart from the general threat - for your emigration?)

1) 9 January 1939 to Spring 1942 in Kibbutz Na'an, Palestine
2) Spring to Summer 1942, factory worker
3) Summer 1942 to Summer 1946, British Army, Royal Engineers. Desert campaign Egypt & Libya. Then to Italy campaign
4) 1946-7 Palestine, truck driver. Haganah
5) 1948-9 Israel Defence Forces. War of Independence
6) 1954 completed engineering studies by correspondence
7) 1955-59 M.S. degree, Manchester England
8) 1959, August came to Harvard U. as a Research Fellow in physics 9) 1965-6 returned to England to complete Ph.D. Thesis. (10) 1962-1988 Stanford University.

ADDENDUM TO QUESTION 2.3

KRISTALLNACHT

On Kristallnacht, November 9, 1938, three men in civilian clothes came to our apartment looking for father who had been visiting my grandfather. We didn't know at the time that the Nazi rulers had decided to step up persecutions to previously unknown heights -- a level of brutality that would remain a symbol in history. My mother, unaware of the danger, phoned to my father and asked him to come home. As he arrived a few minutes later he was told that he was under arrest. I did not want my father to be led away alone and insisted on coming along. I was barely sixteen years old, but I looked more like fourteen and the Gestapo men shoved me aside ignoring my pleas. In retrospect I understand how relatively "benign" Kristallnacht was: they did not arrest children. yet. I ran after the truck that took my father to the police station in Leopoldsgasse. There I stood until about 2 a.m. huddling with other Jewish people, mostly women, in the hope that our loved ones would be released soon. There was silence interrupted by occasional sobbing. We truly expected our loved ones to be released. After all, we knew that they had not broken any laws and there was no reason to keep them in the police station. In our naiveté we still believed in some semblance of law governing official action.

The principal Jewish temple was half a block from the police station. I knew the temple well having attended many Sabbath services there. Cantor Fraenkel had a great gift putting old Jewish melodies into musically intricate compositions and incorporating these in prayers. Though irreligious, I loved the richness of the melodies and the voices of the men's and boys' choir. (The star boy was called Schwartz; I wonder what happened to him -- he gave us all such an uplifting experience with his exquisite solos.) Standing in front of the police station I could hear for hours a great commotion not knowing what was happening. Although very curious, I did not want to leave my post lest I miss my father when he is released. The thought that he might not be released never entered my mind. Then I noticed the acrid smell of a building on fire, and walking a short distance I could see the Great Synagogue ablaze. Jeering, jubilant crowds were throwing Holy Scriptures and synagogue furniture unto a heap that was already ablaze. The "gentle" Viennese were having a good time. The burning of the synagogues was a symbol of the times to come. I never saw my father again.

At home I found great distress. Nothing could assuage my

mother's guilt feelings that she had called my father home and thus became an "accessory" to his arrest. She was suicidal, and my sisters and I kept constant vigil over her. This continued until my departure to Palestine in 1939. Many Jewish families remained without any financial support. Soon after Kristallnacht there appeared soup kitchens, one of them on the same corner where I so helplessly waited for my father's release. Nazi thugs delighted in occasionally toppling over the containers from which the food was

3. THE UNITED STATES

3.1 When did you arrive in the U.S.? (Please indicate exact date, if possible)

27 August 1959 on a "First Preference visa" obtained with help of Harvard University. I had no relatives in the US

3.2 Did members of your family emigrate to countries other than the U.S.?
(If so, where? Where do they live today? Are you still in contact with them?)

None of my immediate family members survived.

3.3 Did you serve in the U.S. Armed Forces or in any other allied army?
(If so, when did you join? What division? What was your area of operation? When were you discharged?)

1942 - 1946 British Army. Desert campaign Egypt and Libya. Then Italy. Royal Engineers Regiment. Discharged with 30% disability

1948 - 1949 Israel Defense Forces. War of Independence.

3.4 Please list places and dates of residence in the U.S.
(City, State; in bigger cities, neighborhood)

1959-60 36 SCITUATE ST., ARLINGTON, MASS
1960-62 15 WILLIAMS RD., LEXINGTON, MASS
1962-69 4221 DAKE AVE., PALO ALTO, CA 94306
1969-1992 840 LA MESA DR., PORTOLA VALLEY, CA 94028
1992-1999 182 SAND HILL CIR, MENLO PARK, CA 94025
1999- Present 1661 PINE ST., # 314, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109

3.5 Please describe your occupational situation after your arrival in the U.S.

RESEARCH FELLOW IN PHYSICS
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
MEMBER OF THE DESIGN TEAM OF A
6 GEV SYNCHROTRON

3.6 Did you belong to any emigrant/immigrant-related organization or cultural association? (e.g. Austrian American Federation, Austrian Forum, etc.? If so, since when?)

NO

3.7 Do you still speak German in the USA? If so, with whom and when? How often?

NO

3.8 Would you call yourself religious? To what degree? What is your affiliation? Did it change?
(Do you keep kosher, go to synagogue, observe the holidays,...?)

AGNOSTIC

3.9 Were your friends and acquaintances mostly German-speaking or non-German-speaking? Mainly Jewish or not?

Non-German speaking
Mixed, but more Jewish than non-Jewish

3.10 Of what country (countries) are you a citizen? When was each citizenship granted?

☑	ISRAEL	1948
	USA	1966

3.11 Have you ever visited Austria after the war? If so, how often?
(What did you do there? Can you recall some of your impressions during these visits? Have you ever thought of going back permanently?)

1) 1966 Went to the Jewish Community offices to look up fate of my family

2) About 1980. Three days as a tourist.

3) 2001 Took my daughter and 3 grand-children to show them where I grew up. It made a deep impression on my daughter and engendered a moving correspondence among my three children

4. PARTICIPATION IN OTHER ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS

4.1 Have you ever been interviewed by any other organization?
(If yes, please indicate when and by which organization?)

SHOAH PROJECT, sponsored by S. Spielberg

4.2 Have you ever been mentioned in any historical works?
(Holocaust-related literature, Documentary films, Exhibitions etc.)

No

5. FAMILY MEMBERS

5.1 Spouse (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

FRIEDA PORAT née KRITZMAN
born GALATZ, RUMANIA, May 18, 1925
PSYCHOLOGIST

5.2 Mother (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

MARIEM, MINA PFEFFERBAUM, born
ŻABIE (now UKRAINE) around 1890

5.3 Father (Name, Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

EISIG, ISAAC PFEFFERBAUM, born STRYJ
(now UKRAINE) OCTOBER 19, 1885.
Businessman

5.4 Siblings (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

Ethel PFEFFERBAUM, M.D. Place? [redacted]
born December 8, 1911
Deported from Vienna October 1942 to
MALY TROSTINEC. Date of death October 9, 1942

5.5 **Children** (Name, Maiden Name, Address [City, State, Country], Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

1. MARC URI PORAT, 1390 BEVERLY ESTATES DR., BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210. BORN NOV 19, 1947 RAMAT-GAN, ISRAEL. CHAIRMAN & CEO OF COMPANY
2. RUTH MYRA PORAT, 1 WEST 72nd St., NY, NY 10023 1957 BORN NOV 23, 1957 SALE, CHESHIRE, ENGLAND MANAGING DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY INESTM
3. NAOMI, EVE PORAT, 1365 4th AVE, SAN FRANCISCO 94122 ~~ECONOMIC~~ BORN JULY 29, 1959, ALTRINCHAM, CHESHIRE, ENGLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

5.6 **Grandparents** (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth, place/date of death, Occupation[s])

DECEASED - NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE

The Austrian Heritage Collection is always looking for people to interview.

If you know any Austrian-Jewish immigrants in the US who might be interested in participating in this project, please either ask them to contact us or write their addresses below.

Thank you very much for participating in this project.

DAN PORAT, PhD

July 30, 2003

Matthias Male
Austrian Heritage Project
Leo Baeck Institute
15 W 16th Street
New York, NY 10011

Dear Mr. Male:

I refer to your email of July 29th and enclose herewith my paper "THE CHAJES REALGYMNASIUM – A HALF CENTURY LATER".

Thank you much for extending to me your invitation to visit the Leo Baeck Institute and have a look at the archives – which I would like very much to do. I'll be spending most of my vacation time outside the City and at present have no visibility whether I will be able to take you up on your kind offer.

With best regards,

Dan I Porat

DAN I. PORAT

Enclosure

THE
CHAJES
REALGYMNASIUM

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

MCMXVIII - MCMXXXVIII

A HALF CENTURY LATER

A SURVEY OF PAST STUDENTS

TISHREI 5755 - SEPTEMBER 1994

PREPARED BY DAN PORAT, Ph.D.

Dear Colleagues,

In March, 1994 Uri Spielvogel mailed some three hundred questionnaires to you with an accompanying letter that is reproduced on the next page. Your response was most gratifying. I received 104 replies and many letters that gave me insights into the school that sustained our spirits through difficult times. I was saddened by loss of family and friends that you reported and I celebrated with you your achievements accomplished against all odds. The most enthusiastic response came from our Israeli contingent, where 44.3 percent of the questionnaires (that were mailed to our Israeli ex-students) were completed, as compared to 27.5% from the U.S.A. and 22.5% from other countries. Thank you all for a magnificent response. I would like to mention especially Zev Bronner-Bairey's son, Daniel, who filled out the questionnaire for his late father and expressed his wish to keep up the Chajes link. Uri was informed.

Of all the responses, 73 came from men, 30 from women, while 1 did not supply a name and thus gender could not be ascertained. In addition to the respondents' comments in the margins of the questionnaires, much material was also generously provided in many letters. It's yet another proof that we still feel a closely knit community so many years later. Special thanks are due to Uri who has volunteered generously his time to keep us together and well informed about each other and to give us a sense of belonging. He started a Newsletter to his classmates in 1967 and has branched out since then to all past Chajes students. His diligence and dedication were rewarded since he was successful in tracing over three hundred of our friends. He is still working hard at this worthwhile project, so please contact him if you know of someone who is not on his roster.

I received the last questionnaire July 1, 1994, thus I had only two months in which to collate the information and put some statistical meaning to it. The richness of the material, however, will require years of study to do it justice. Don't be disappointed, therefore, if some of your insights have not been reproduced here. This report is only a skeleton of what's possible to cull from the wealth of the material that you provided. Let's hope this is just the beginning and that some of you will pore over the data and derive meaning at a deeper level. I will make the source material available to anyone interested in further analysis, including questionnaires and the numerous computer files that were developed in support of this study. Preliminary results were presented at the reunion in Tel-Aviv, on September 25, 1994. Further study and correspondence clarified details and removed ambiguities. Some category groupings were also changed, mainly for clarity.

To set the background, I am reproducing here the original letter mailed to you, followed by the summaries of your answers to the Questionnaire in which I have included statistical data, charts and graphs, comments from you and some personal thoughts. It was difficult for me to select from the many meaningful observations that you volunteered. In the interest of brevity I have included only a small fraction. I am amazed at the accomplishments of this small group and the amount of volunteering and sacrifice for the common good, be it in the Haganah, Palmach, "Palestinian" soldier volunteers in the British Army, Kibbutz, or Jewish and other institutions where you spent a lifetime.

And this is the letter that I wrote to you on March 4, 1994:

Dear Chajesnik,

We are trying to gather data on the student body of our school and would appreciate your cooperation. It should be stated a priori that this is not an academic endeavor. We believe that it's important for us, and especially for the next generation, to understand how our students coped with the adversities of our generation. Our perception is that we, as a group, did rather well, especially considering the circumstances of our departures from Austria. This, however, should not prejudice the outcome of a compilation that will take a dispassionate look at the data. Also, the questionnaire is trying to respect your privacy. Should you feel uncomfortable with any question, please feel free not to address it. In fact, you can send in your replies without filling out your name. We apologize for any pain, however unintended, that we may have caused asking you to remember those difficult times in your lives.

The questionnaire might also be an impetus to reflect on the events of the past, assess the present and contemplate the future. Your descendants might find an interest in your past and in the history of the times that we witnessed.

We do urge you to participate in this effort since the statistical confidence level of the compilation improves with the number of participants. Your replies may be given in Hebrew or in English, but the latter is preferred because it make it easier to process the information.

We encourage you to add any relevant information on additional sheets if you find the space allocated in the questionnaire to be insufficient. Also please feel free to add your comments and critique on issues that were not raised by us but are of importance to you.

Your early reply will make it possible to process the information before the forthcoming Chajes meeting in Israel that is planned for the last week in September 1994. The results may engender a lively discussion. So please send in your completed questionnaire before May 1, 1994 to:

DAN PORAT,

With greetings of Shalom and L'hitraoth in September 1994,

QUESTIONNAIRE

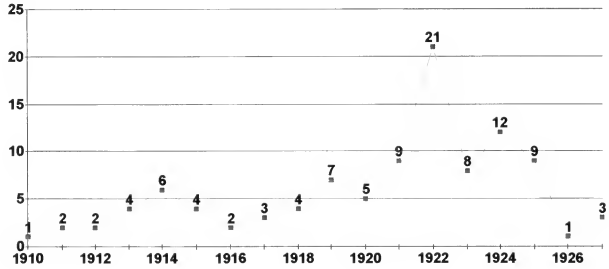
1. *Name [optional]*:

2. *Name At Chajes [optional]*

3. *Birthdate*:

Average age in September 1994 = 74.56 years; oldest born in 1910, youngest in 1927

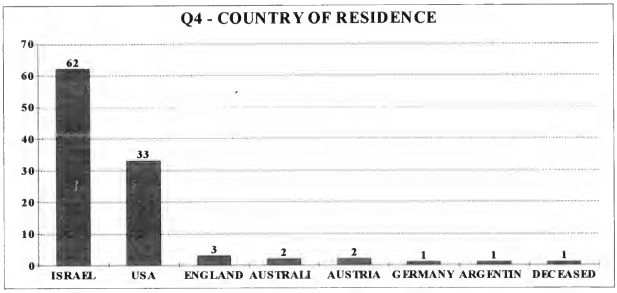
Q3 - YEAR OF BIRTH



It's no coincidence that the graph peaks around 1922. Thanks are due to Henriette Szold (1860-1945), who devoted her life to Jewish causes, the founder of Hadassah and the first woman to become a member of the Zionist Executive. After the rise of Nazism she devoted her energies to Youth Aliyah and saved thousands of young lives. You may remember that she persuaded the British authorities to grant 2,200 "certificates" (entry visas) for Jewish-Austrian youngsters between the ages of fifteen and seventeen to be admitted to Palestine. She saved the lives of many of our colleagues. We are eternally grateful.

4. *Address [optional]*:

According to the latest count (November 1994) the Chajes Newsletter is mailed by Uri Spielvogel to 148 ex-students residing in Israel, 151 in the U.S.A., and 46 in various other countries. The distribution, by country, of the respondents is shown in the graph on the next page: "Country of Residence".



5. *Telephone [optional]*

6. *Where were you born:* 103 respondents,

AUSTRIA	79	76.7%	POLAND	19	18.4%
HUNGARY	3	2.9%	RUSSIA	2	1.9%

7. *From where did your parents come to Vienna (if applicable)*

POLAND	138	AUSTRIA	15
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	12	ROMANIA	11
RUSSIA	9	UKRAINE	3
GERMANY	1		

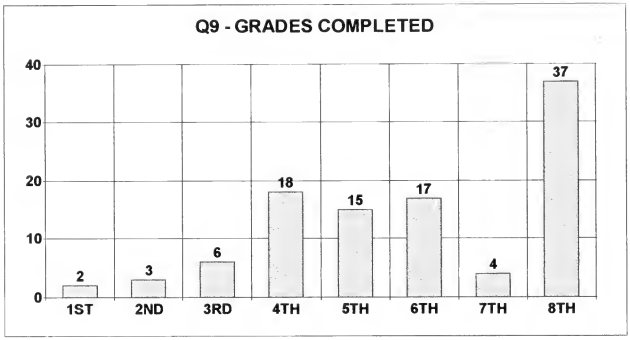
8. *Your father's (a) and/or mother's (b) occupation*

Some occupations listed below are in broader categories than reported.

Fathers
Businessman 50 Manufacturer 10 Salesman 6 Accountant 4
Physician 3 Lawyer, Rabbi3 Engineer, Teacher 2 each
Shoemaker 2 Banker, Butcher, Shamash, Carpenter, Director 1 each
Judaica World Expert, Journalist, Cantor, Dentist 1 each

Mothers
Homemaker 31 Businesswoman 8
Seamstress, Physician, Pharmacist, Academician 1 each

9. *Circle highest grade attended at Chajes 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8*



10. If you did not matriculate, did you have an opportunity to complete high school elsewhere. Where?

64 percent had not matriculated when our school was closed by decree of the Nazi authorities.
Pnina Waller: "With the help of Dr. Klein, our English teacher, I received .....permission from the Austrian Education Ministry to study at the University of Vienna. This opened the door to Jerusalem University in 1965."

Dan Porat: "Prepared for Matriculation in the deserts of Egypt and Lybia, as a soldier volunteer in World War II; by correspondence.

11. When did you leave Vienna (month, year):

a. Left before the Anschluss: 12, most by far (9) emigrated to Israel (reference to Israel includes the British Mandate "Palestine"); Two emigrated to the U.S.A.

b. Left after the Anschluss and before start of World War II: 82

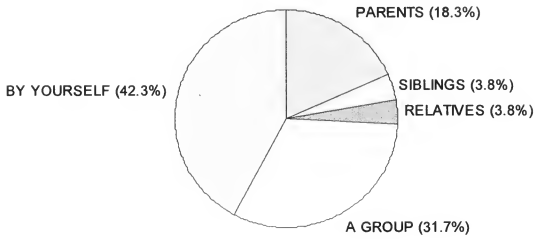
c. Left after the war had already started: 9 The latest departure was in February 1940

12. Did you leave a. legally b. illegally.

95- legally; 9 - illegally

13. Did you leave with (circle applicable) a. your parents b. sibling(s) c. relative(s) d. with a group e. by yourself

Q13 - WITH WHOM DID YOU LEAVE

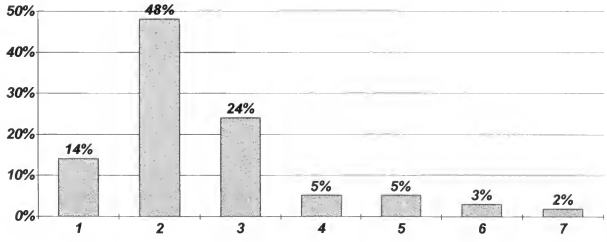


Avraham Carmel: "Three of my sisters succeeded to leave for Eretz Israel; each of us on our own." (There were six children in the family)

81.7% left without their parents. 74.1% left without anyone from their immediate or extended families

14. How many children were there in your family

Q14 - NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN YOUR FAMILY



The average number of children in your family (in Vienna) was 2.56
15. Did your parents survive a. father b. mother (circle applicable)

Israel Ben-David: "My parents were murdered in Yugoslavia on their way to Palestine, together with about one thousand Jews".

Erwin Eltes: "Father and mother died in Belsen."

Bruno Ebenstein: "Auschwitz."

Dan Porat: "My father was arrested on Kristallnacht -- the last time I saw him. One of my sisters escaped to Yugoslavia waiting for an illegal transport to Palestine. The Wehrmacht caught up with her in spring of 1941. She was taken to a labor camp in Poland, then to Ghetto Tarnow where she found our parents. All three were then deported from the Ghetto to Auschwitz, Belzec, or Plaszow, I do not know for sure where or when. Deportations to death camps started June 11, 1942 and ended September 2, 1943."

Max Kopka: "None survived."

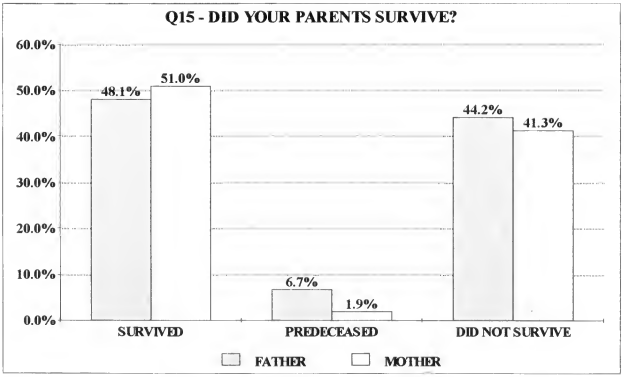
Zwi Herman Wallach: "My father was taken to Dachau January 9, 1939...mother and sister deported to Minsk, 1942."

David Brueckenstein: "My parents died in Auschwitz."

Esther Lampl: "No" (did not survive)

Martha Shimron: "Theresienstsadt - Auschwitz"

Albert Goldfield: "Parents did not survive."



16. Did your siblings survive a. all b. some (eg., 2/3, two out of three) c. none.
ALL:72 SOME: 11 NONE: 6.

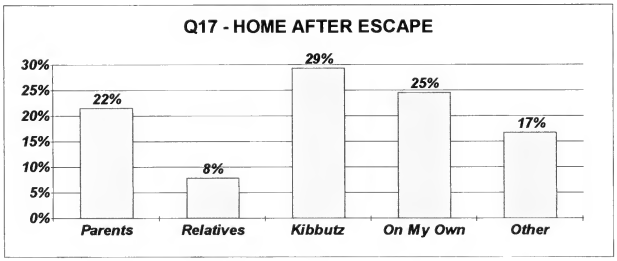
Isadore Gettinger: "Brother killed at Auschwitz."

Dan Porat: "One sister, a physician, was deported October 5, 1942 from Vienna to Ghetto Minsk. No survivors."

One past student (no name given) writes: "One sibling was killed in England during the Blitz".

17. Where was "home" after your escape? a. parents b. relatives c. kibbutz d. on my own e. other (specify country)

Category *"e. other"* includes foster home, boarding school, children's home, detention camp.



18. To what country or countries did you escape (if more than one, state all in chronological order):

A substantial number of respondents reported more than one country on their way of finding a new home.

ISRAEL: 63 USA: 25 OTHER: 41.

Among "other" we find:

BELGIUM	ITALY	FRANCE
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	POLAND	SWITZERLAND
YUGOSLAVIA	LUXEMBURG	AUSTRALIA
SWEDEN	BOLIVIA	LATVIA
RUSSIA	SPAIN	CUBA
MAURITIUS	ECUADOR	

This long list gives us some idea how desperately we wanted to get out of the European hell. Did we have premonitions?

Some of our friends' odysseys:

Norman Rokeach Rogers: Czechoslovakia, Poland, England, United States

Erwin Frenkel (paraphrased): "Henny Rokeach found my name in a book. Until then she thought I was dead." Zwi Wallach was on the same boat and provided the title of the book: "The Dunera Experience" by Ben-Zion Patkin, published by Cassel Australia Ltd. The Dunera was a boat carrying "enemy aliens" from England to Australia. Can you imagine Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany being treated in England as "enemy aliens"?!

Herbert Rosenkranz: "Latvia, then 1941-47 internment camp in Russia." (Herbert earned his Ph.D. in Vienna, 1953.)

Rachel Scharman: "Belgium, France, Spain, Cuba." Rachel lives now in the U.S.A.

Max Kopka: "....left Vienna September 1, 1940, illegally, with (fake) papers to go to South America. Went to Tulcea, Romania, boarded ship for Palestine. The British intercepted us; took us to Haifa to board the ship PATRIA, to be deported to Mauritius. The PATRIA was bombed (actually scuttled), over 200 drowned. We were incarcerated in Acco prison and then the British brought another ship and we were all deported to Mauritius (an island in the Indian Ocean off the coast of East Africa). There, in 1944, I volunteered to serve with the British Army and joined the Jewish Brigade. I was discharged in 1946 in then Palestine.."
The odyssey of refugees going from Vienna via Tulcea to Mauritius was described in a fictionalized version by Maureen Earl in her book "Boat of Stone". I recommend it.

Strangers to that chapter in history may be puzzled why Max volunteered with the British after they had treated him so badly. His contemporaries know: that the other side in the WWII conflict was much worse, by far. The choice between bad and worse is a typical dilemma in Jewish existence and Max's instincts guided him to make the right decision, as did many generations before him.
Kopka had the honor two years ago to hear his son plead a case in the United States Supreme Court, Washington, D.C.

19. Did you go on to college, university? yes no

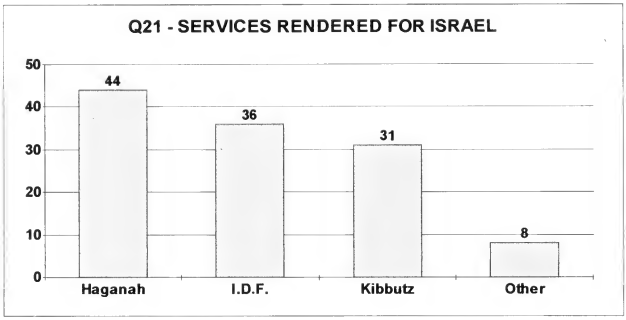
63% attended college/university. Not too bad for a bunch of youngsters, 64 percent of whom were denied finishing high-school.

20. Highest degree obtained

BA, BS	16	DIPL. ING	3
MA, MS	14	PhD	14
MBA	3	COLLEGE	15
MD	5		

from a letter: "(I got the)..highest degree in hard physical labor.."

21. Services rendered for Israel: a. Haganah b. Israel Defense Forces, I.D.F. c. Kibbutz d. Other (specify)



Under "OTHER" we find: PALMACH, JEWISH BRIGADE, SHALIACH

Jochanan Twersky: "LECHI underground."

Presently 16 Chajesniks in this survey are Kibbutz members, an extraordinary high percentage, and they are listed below (in the order of their replies received)

MEMBERS OF KIBBUTZIM

Michaela Fernandez	Hulatah
Hananya Nahor	Lehavoth Habashan
Aryeh Rothman	Ein Hamifratz
Eliyahu Shari	Giv'at Hayim
Nachum Brandes	Ne'ot Mordechai
Yehoshua Edelstein	Kfar Hanassi
Dan Carmel	Beit Hashittah
Rudolf Reuven Gutter	Kfar Hanassi
Mimi Schnapper	Giv'at Hayim
Batya Raines	Kfar Hanassi
Efraim Shalev	Giv'at Hayim
Emanuel Barziv	Ein Hamifratz
Benzion Feinstein	Lehavoth Habashan
Elisheva Ilan	Gvaram
Judith Schwarz	Ein Hamifratz
Josef Vogel	Ein Gev

22. Professional recognition: awards, books, publications, other (please give details)

There is an abundance of professional books, publications, awards, translations and other worth-while contributions to our culture, be it in the humanities, the sciences, or the arts. This information is too individual to be processed statistically and the wealth of contributions is so great that it would be out of place here if I attempted to list them all. Therefore, I will only list names who reported contributions. These are arranged in the order received:

Prof. Nelly Szabo Ullman
Oded Messer, BA
Prof. Kurt Pollack
Prof. Binyamin Shimron
Eliyahu Shari
Eleasar Weissbrot, MSc
Esther Lampl, PhD
Moshe Meisels, MA
Israel Ben-David, PhD
Erwin Frenkel
Mary Glueck, MA
Prof. Max Streifler
Edith Ehrlich, PhD
Alfred Schock, MS
Dan Porat, PhD
Norman Rokeach Rogers, MD
Avraham Carmel, MA
Prof. Hugo Steinfink Ph.D.
Pnina Waller, PhD
Erwin Elter, BA
Prof. Max Reiss
Nachum Brandes, BA
Prof. Eli Traum
Ruth Guttman, PhD
Michaela Aloni, MSc
Eddie Shavit, Dipl. Ing.
Prof. Leonard Ehrlich
Herbert Rosenkranz, PhD
Prof. Fred Nussenbaum
Rabbi William Frankel

Jehuda Glueckselig: "My C.E. Diploma was handed to my wife by Chaim Weizman, while I served with the (British) Army in Italy."
[Prof. Weizman, 1874-1952, was elected first president of Israel on the establishment of the State in 1948.]

23. Your present marital status: a. single b. married c. divorced d. widowed

Single: 0 Married: 78 Divorced: 7 Widowed: 18

24. Is (was) your spouse Jewish?

yes: 102 *no*: 1 3 second spouses also "no".

25. Since leaving Vienna, did you have an affiliation with a. Synagogue b. other Jewish organization. (Circle all that apply)

Synagogue: 55 Jewish organizations: 49 Total number of responses: 73 (Numbers do not add up because some respondents had joined both categories.)

26. Your occupation. If retired, state your past occupation(s) in descending order of time worked.

Accountant	1	Manager	9
Artist	1	Mathematician	1
Businessman/woman	10	Librarian	1
Chairman/CEO	3	Pharmacist	1
Chemist	2	Physician	4
Civil Servant	3	President	3
Clerical	2	Professor	11
Director	4	Psychologist	1
Engineer	9	Rabbi	1
Electrician	1	Researcher	4
Horticulturist	1	Supervisor	1
Journalist	1	Teacher	9
Kibbutznik	2	Translator	1
Lawyer	1	Vice President	1
Lecturer	2	Worker	3

Notes: Occupations listed in the table above are from the respondents' replies, the way they defined themselves.

Josef Vogel: "One year clearing fields of rocks and digging." (Josef was later in many leadership positions in the Israel Defense Forces and in his Kibbutz, Ein-Gev.) Many of us did similar apprenticeships.

Frank Spielberg, President of two large corporations.

Oded Messer reports that he "served with Zahal" and is a "public servant". This is quite an understatement. Oded was a Colonel in Zahal and was Inspector of Israel Banks.

Noemi Gershuni writes that she was a Haganah radio operator from 1941 to 1948. What she modestly omits to tell us is that she was in the Tel-Aviv station that was central to all Haganah communications within the country and in its first years also abroad. This was the renowned "Resheth Gideonit" that was much hunted by the British military, since this communication network was, among other functions, also supporting illegal immigration of Jews fleeing European persecution and post-war trauma.

27. Occupation of your spouse (see Notes below pervious table)

Accountant	2	Nurse	7
Artist	1	Physician	1
Biochemist	1	Professor	4
Bookkeeper	2	Psychologist/Counselor	3
Businessman/woman	4	Researcher	3
Civil Servant	1	Supervisor/Executive	3

Clerical.....6	Teacher.....16
Engineer.....5	Technician.....3
Lawyer.....2	Urbanist.....1
Lecturer.....3	Librarian.....1
Worker.....1	Writer.....2

28. Proficiency of languages: speak read write

Hebrew	____	____	____
English	____	____	____
German	____	____	____
Other	____	____	____

Over 94 percent know some, or are proficient in Hebrew. The average number of languages with which we can communicate is 3.73 per person. Should come in handy in the "Global Village".

SPEAK READ WRITE

Hebrew.....72	English.....98
German.....101	French.....17
Yiddish.....15	Spanish.....4
Italian.....3	Russian.....2
Polish.....1	Swedish.....1

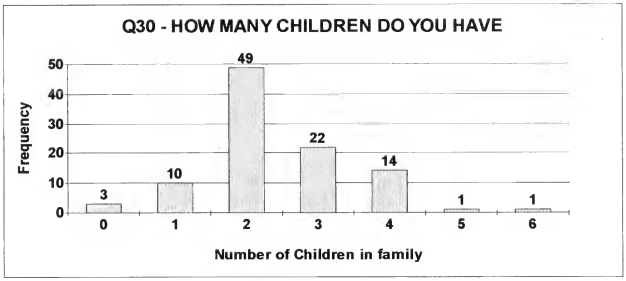
Partial knowledge of languages:

Hebrew.....25	English.....5
German.....3	French.....21
Yiddish.....6	Italian.....4
Arabic.....2	Hungarian.....1
Spanish.....2	Polish.....1
Dutch.....3	

29. Are there any permanent health consequences due to your escape? yes no

Yes: 3 No: 100

30. Do you have children If yes, how many



As a group we have a total of 239 offsprings, an average of 2.39 children in a family (number of respondents = 100). Compared with our parents' family average of 2.56 children we had 6.6 percent fewer children. This is not a statistically significant difference.

Elli Wilner writes (translated from Hebrew): "My only son died in a traffic accident at the age of 41. He left a wife and three children."

Emanuel Barziv: "..two children + one killed in the Yom Kippur war." (One son, a pilot, is a Lieut. Colonel in the Israeli Air Force).

A colleague writes: "What has affected my life most was the tragedy when my older boy fell (while serving with) the Israeli Air Force in September 1974. Outwardly I have continued to function actively, more or less, as before."

Jochanan Twersky: "Four children, 18 grand-children, all in Israel"

31. If they attended university, what degree(s) did they complete

BA or BS.....48	LAW DEGREES.....5
MA & MFA, etc....19	MD.....19
MS 17	PHD.....21
MBA etc.....9	COLLEGE.....8

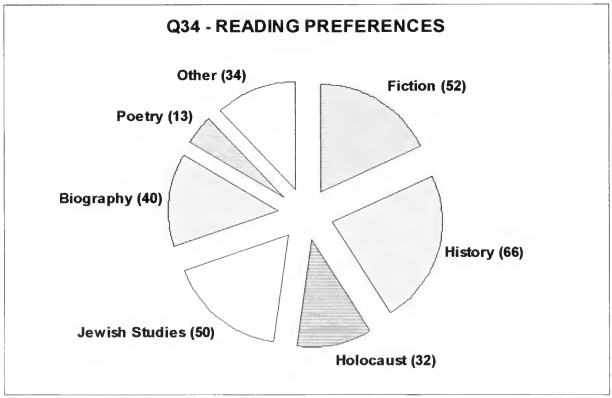
Comparing your academic achievements and your children's it's evident that your children continued in the tradition of learning and study. It must be gratifying to see continuation of same value systems in the younger generation!

32. What are their occupations/professions

33. What are your hobbies (rank in descending order)

34. What reading do you prefer? (circle all that apply) a. fiction b. history c. holocaust d. Jewish studies e. biography f. poetry, g. other(s) [name subject(s)].

Under "*Other*" we find quite eclectic tastes: Archeology * Science * Technology * Medicine * Computers * Economics * Music * History * Philosophy * Psychology * Art * Political science

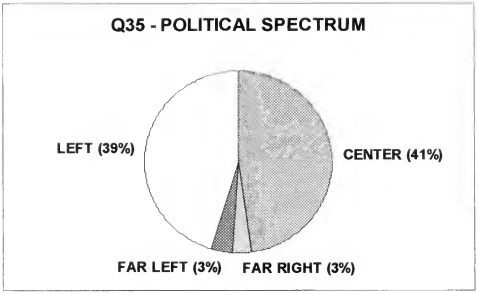


35. How would you categorize yourself on a political spectrum with regard to Israel? 1. center 2. right 3. far right 4. left 5. far left

It seems to me that our political spectrum has not changed a bit from our high-school days in Vienna! Does anyone have Vienna data for comparison? Results remind me of a longitudinal study done in England (and depicted in a series of movies) showing an amazing predictability of the children's future career paths. Could this apply to political leanings too? Compare the Chajes data with the whole of Israel and draw your conclusions.

Leslie Epstein, Australia, enclosed a detailed letter telling about his return to Judaic roots. He adds: "Had I been in Israel, I would have voted Labor in the last elections."

See graph "Political Spectrum" on next page



36. Are you politically affiliated? yes no

34 out of 96 respondents to this question are affiliated, representing 35.4%

37. Have you held political office What office

38. Military service - list all service and duration

28 - Israel Defense Forces
16 - U.S.A.
11 - Britain
1 - Australia
7 - Other, including Palmach (3), Coast Guard, Border Police, Reservist

William Feuer, US paratrooper, Normandy and four other campaigns

Josef Geva: Major General, Israel Defense Forces

Jehuda Glueckselig: Jewish Brigade, Israel War of Independence, Israel-Arab War 1956, Six-Day War, 1967.

Oded Messer: Colonel, Israel Defense Forces

Josef Vogel, Deputy Battalion Commander, Israel Defense Forces

Leonard Ehrlich, US Army Silver Star, Purple Heart, 3 Battle Stars

39. Participation in community and civic affairs (list type of organizations)

Jehuda Glueckselig writes (paraphrased): "As a civil engineer I planned and supervised the construction of six synagogues in Israel. My personal answer to *Kristallnacht*".

Max Streifler:"..setting up blood bank in besieged Jerusalem during the War of Independence. Setting up psychological shock detection and treatment unit during Six-Day and Yom-Kippur wars."

40. Any special honors, citations, awards, election to honor societies

Max Streifler, Gold Ehrenmedalie, of the City of Vienna

Max Reiss, Israel representative to Euro committee on concrete

Eleasar Weissbrot, Austrian Knights Cross

Avraham Carmel, Tchernichovsky Prize for translation

Josef Vogel, Head of the Israel delegation to the Mixed Armistice Commission with Syria and Lebanon

Mosche Meisels, Gold Medal for services to the State of Austria.

41. Give any other information about yourself or your family that was not asked in this questionnaire

Kurt Ginsberg: "My father founded the Zionist organization in Quito, Ecuador."

Harold Rayner: "Father spent several months in Dachau."

Pnina Waller: "My only brother was a pilot in Israel and crashed at age 31";

42. Experience at Chajes that you found most valuable in life, if any

I could not possibly reproduce here all the insightful responses that I received to this question. Here are just a few representative opinions:

Rigorous learning - Jewish culture	History and languages	Latin
Sense of belonging	Broadening of horizons	Enthusiasm
Spirituality as distinct from materialism		Values
Jewish consciousness		I was very happy in school
Six wonderful years		Preparation for life in Israel
Dr. Kellner (principal) was a role model		

Hananya Nahor: "All my family's children studied at the Chajes, covering the first and the last class that reached Matura." And he adds in a postscript: "All of my family reached Israel."

Kurt Pollack: "I was very impressed with my Chajes teachers being able to concentrate on teaching in spite of the surrounding Nazis and their activities."

Jehuda Glueckselig (paraphrased): "Knowledge of Hebrew saved my life, as I got a student's Certificate to (enter Palestine and) attend the Technion in Haifa."

No name: "When I later became myself an educator I was able to fully appreciate the extraordinary understanding I found in Chajes for my emotional problems which grew out of my being an orphan growing up in a children's home, albeit a good one. Grete and Victor Loewenfeld were my phantasy parents. The 'School Lager' (summer camp) was the big event of the year. I was given much kindness, acceptance, and many opportunities for self-expression. In my case the main gain was emotional. There was also a strong feeling of community."

Dan Porat: "I greatly enjoyed language classes since they often added a whole new cultural dimension. It never dawned on me, while in school, that we were actually studying four languages: Hebrew, German, Latin and English, the latter added in third grade. This feeling was best articulated by another student:

Eleasar Weissbrot: (see the 70th anniversary issue "The Chajes Realgymnasium, page 52) "Can one imagine a class in which Cicero is being translated from Latin into Hebrew, with reference to Schlegel's translation of Shakespeare from English to German and Pushkin's translation of a poem by Goethe from German to Russian?"

Frieda Orbach: "When Direx (school principal) said 'I do not know what the future will bring you, but I am certain of one thing: Shma Yisrael will be recited longer than Heil Hitler'."

43. Experiences at Chajes that had a negative impact, if any

"When the SS took our teachers on November 11, 1938."

"Preferential treatment of some students."

44. Did you have a mentor or mentors a. at Chajes b. later in life

45. On the whole, how do you measure your life satisfaction in view of your sudden dislocation. On a scale of 5 (best) 4 3 2 1 (worst)

Average: 4.14, Standard deviation: 0.78

Zipora Argow: "I did not answer question 45, because I missed studies very much, but adapted to life quite well and was happy in my occupation."

46. Same question for material well-being 5 4 3 2 1

Average: 4.02, Standard deviation: 0.81

47. Same question for inner peace 5 4 3 2 1

Average: 3.86, Standard deviation: 1.19

48. Same question for social skills/adaptability 5 4 3 2 1

Average: 4.03, Standard deviation: 0.96

In the set of questions 45 through 48, the lowest average score is about inner peace. We may have caught up in other areas that offer satisfaction, but are we paying a price here for the difficult times of our generation? Note, however, that the differences are statistically not highly significant (see standard deviations). Overall scores are quite high.

49. From what factors of your life do you derive most satisfaction (e.g., family, work, volunteering, music etc., rank in descending order)

The table below provides only the minimum of the information given to this question in your replies. It would be interesting to see, for example, ordering of the categories, how many mentioned 1, 2 or more categories, etc.

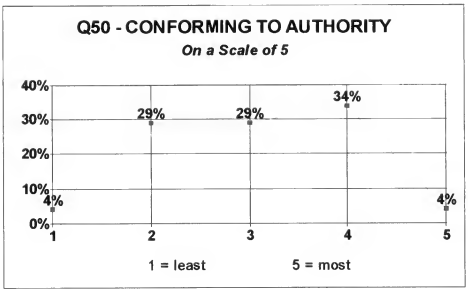
Family 80	Work..... 75
Music 28	Volunteering.....22
Art..... 2	Study/Reading.....5
Sport..... 5	Hobbies, Friends.....3 each
Art..... 2	

and 1 each for the following: Kibbutz, Zionism, Politics, Writing, Bridge

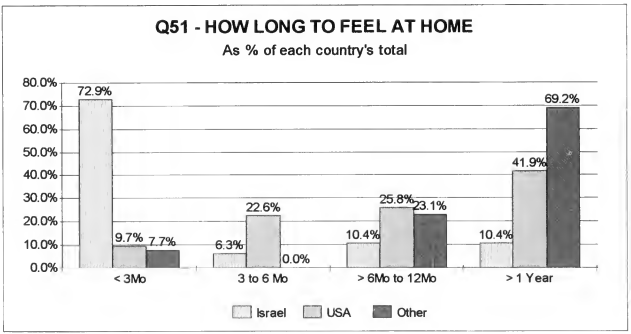
50. To what extent do you conform to authority and conventions. On a scale of 5(most conforming) 4 3 2 1(least)

Comments from colleagues:

Max Streifler: "Even if sometimes not in full agreement, I never had clashes with constituted authority."



51. How long did it take for you to "feel at home" in the new country, or countries



Note that 72.9% of those who came to Israel felt at "home" in less than 3 months One colleague wrote: "In 24 hours" and many indicated a very brief period of adjustment: days, weeks. In comparison, those who emigrated to the U.S.A. or other countries needed a much longer time to acclimate. One respondent from South America wrote that she doesn't "completely until today." Replies from the U.K. showed significantly longer periods of adjustment as compared to the emigres' experience in the U.S.A..

Esther Lampl: "Immediately; Tel-Yosef was a very caring Kibbutz, the group knew each other from the Youth movement."

Avraham Carmel: Immediately; I came 'home' not regarding separation from my family and anxiety over their fate."

52. Would you like to see a continuation of the Chajes link, via the "Chajesnik" and other forms of communication

Responses were predominantly "YES"; seven did not fill in an answer; one was in doubt. There were also a few comments:

Batja Raines: "..would be nice but lost contact with most. Am only in contact with those friends I came to England with and grew up with at Whittinghame Farm School in Scotland."

Israel Ben-David: "We do not know each other. We are separated by life and geography."

Edith Sparer de Hendel, Buenos Aires, Argentina: "I would like to and I wish it (continuation of the Chajes link), but there isn't a real possibility; time and circumstances work against us".

Max Streifler: "Although desirable, I wonder whether some kind of Chajes memorial should/could be set up, e.g., fellowship for present Chajes school students or graduates to study or do research on some issues pertinent to Israel."

53. Your comments and additional thoughts:

Willy Franke[1]: I was raised in an Orthodox Chassidic home (my father was the rabbi of a synagogue in the 9th Bezirk). Although Chajes was hardly a prep school for the rabbinate, it helped in my transition from Orthodoxy to my present liberal place in Conservative Judaism, a balanced view of tradition and change.

Elisheva Ilan (translated from Hebrew): ".....as the only daughter (in my family) I learned important facets of social life. Especially in the summer and winter camps. Through school I joined the Youth Movements: "Brith Bilu" and "Nezach". The high academic level (further) provided foundations for more education. Knowledge of Hebrew facilitated greatly my integration in the Ein Charod Youth Aliyah. In short, the Gymnasium years were an excellent preparation for life (.. illegible..) and saved me and my parents from annihilation in the Holocaust."

Eleasar Weissbrot: "In 1959, when the School celebrated its 40th anniversary, I organized the first meeting of teachers, alumni and students. Direx (Dr. Victor Kellner, principal), Meixi (Mosche Meisels), Jehuda Weissbrot (Matura '28) helped me. We even met in 1960, but then the enthusiasm petered out. NOW (sic) we have Uri's initiative, very commendable, but somehow ignoring the importance of the first 10 Matura classes. It should be stressed that people like Prof. Max Streifler, Prof. B. Shimron, etc., etc., are still able and competent to convey the ZIONIST spirit of their generation to our post-Zionist Israelis and to the contingent of Chajesniks who live in the diaspora."

Isaac Horowitz lists names of 13 classmates and adds that "there are at least ten more classmates who survived the Holocaust. Class size about 38." Thank you, Isaac. Have transmitted the names to Uri Spielvogel.

Chaim Steigman: "I salute Uri's effort. I would rather exchange views about 'Jewish Life' in the 21st century, opening up *Quo vadis*?, than keep contact on a social basis, which will and must, by 'biological' nature, end and evaporate sooner or later. Can Jews keep their identity? ..."

Mimi Schallinger suggests that we issue a roster, including addresses of all to us known Chajesniks so as to facilitate our continuing connections.

Menachem Turk suggests that we use more Hebrew in our communications. Israeli friends, get your Hebrew word-processors working for the cause.

Max Reiss: "Chajes Gymnasium was an exceptional.....educational establishment and it's students coalesced into a tightly-knit community with friendships lasting throughout life. It served as an island of refuge and sanity during the stormy times of the 30's in Vienna."

CONCLUSION - A PERSONAL NOTE

I am still in awe of the accomplishments of my school mates, their vitality, their resilience. After all, these where not normal times! Pop psychology would have us believe that in a group such as ours, where most suffered great personal losses and deprivations, one might expect a high incidence of psycho- and socio-pathy. Forgive me if I allow myself to tread in territory of my ignorance. After all, my graduate training was in nuclear physics and in electronics and not in the behavioral sciences. I permitted myself the luxury (chutzpah is a more apt term) to see what experts in the behavioral sciences have to say on the subject. Dr. Kenneth R. Pelletier, in his book *Sound Mind - Sound Body,* NY, Simon & Schuster, 1994, did look into adult behavior of young people who had experienced traumatic events up to age 18. He finds that such experiences "often serve as catalysts for the later development of such positive adult characteristics as altruism, compassion, commitment, and resistance to psychological and physical illness." Dr. Pelletier uses the metaphor "a broken bone heals stronger." It is a most suitable analogy to the strength displayed by this group of past Chajes students.

Our families and Chajes gave us a sense of coherence that remained with us when we were separated in time and space from their source, when we were suddenly on our own and had to fend for ourselves. Dr. Victor Frankl, in *Man's Search for Meaning*, Boston, Beacon Press, 1962, shows that MEANING is the force that enables people to overcome daunting circumstances. The values with which we were imbued as children in our homes, at Chajes, and in the youth movements with which most of the students were affiliated, gave us that MEANING and a deeper understanding of ourselves and appreciation of others. No wonder that we see the high degree of volunteerism, the constant striving for excellence and a general appreciation of life. I consider myself privileged to be in this circle of friends.

Note: There were 104 replies out of 300 questionnaires that were mailed out. Therefore, there is a certain degree of "self-selection" that has to be taken into account when evaluating the data. From a small sample of personal acquaintances I would surmise that randomness has not been lost due to that self-selection. However, that limited number would not hold up to standards required by statistics.

End of Dan Porat Collection